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February 16, 2000

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

John R. Velasquez, Jr.
Acting Central Enforcement Docket Supervisor
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: MUR 4962
WMUR-TV

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

This letter responds to the complaint filed with the Commission by LaRouche's Committee For A New Bretton Woods ("LaRouche"), which was received by the Commission on January 18, 2000, and received by WMUR-TV on February 1, 2000. LaRouche alleges that WMUR-TV made an illegal corporate expenditure on behalf of presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley when it co-sponsored a debate between those two candidates but did not invite Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. to participate.

Because it is neither owned nor controlled by a political party, committee, or candidate, a "staging organization" such as WMUR-TV does not violate the prohibition on corporate contributions if the structure of the debate satisfies the criteria set forth in 11 CFR §110.13(b), and the selection of candidates follows WMUR-TV's pre-established objective criteria.

LaRouche's Complaint refers to a debate which occurred on January 27, 2000. The debate involved two of the candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for President. In inviting these two candidates, WMUR-TV considered the following pre-established criteria:

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1. Did the candidate have an organized campaign structure both in New Hampshire and nationally;
2. What was the candidate's standing in public opinion polls;
3. Was the candidate actively campaigning in New Hampshire;
4. Newsworthiness.

At the time of the debate WMUR-TV had no indication that Mr. LaRouche was actively campaigning in New Hampshire. In addition, Mr. LaRouche had registered little or no results in public opinion polls, and did not appear to have any significant New Hampshire organization in place. As a result of the analysis of these factors, WMUR-TV did not invite Mr. LaRouche to participate in the January 27th debate.

WMUR-TV's participation in the January 27, 2000 debate, including its selection of participants, was in accordance with all Commission rules and guidelines. The January 27, 2000 debate did not constitute a corporate expenditure on behalf of any candidate for president. Therefore, WMUR-TV respectfully requests that the Commission take no action regarding LaRouche's Complaint and dismiss this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Gray Rice
Counsel for WMUR-TV

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Enclosure
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STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

MUR 4962

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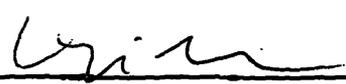
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The above-named individual is hereby designated as my
counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other
communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before
the Commission.

2/16/00
Date


Signature
Larry E. Gilpin, General Manager

RESPONDENT'S NAME: WMUR-TV

ADDRESS: 50 Phillipe-Cote Street
Manchester, NH 03105

HOME PHONE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: 603-669-9999

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